AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 4 with the following amended paragraph.

With respect to the call in the aforementioned example, certain potential limitations, drawbacks and/or problems are revealed. For example, resources of the switch 22 have to be utilized to maintain support of the call for the duration of its connection through the switch 22. Similarly, resources of the IP gateway 12_14 also have to be continually utilized (i.e., during the calls duration) to convert and/or translate a packet-switched call to a circuit-switched call (for the first half-call 30) and then ultimately to convert and/or translate the circuit-switched call back into a packet-switched call (for the second half-call 32). Accordingly, in such instances, it may at times be deemed advantageous to free the switch 22 from the burden of supporting the call. It may at times also be deemed advantageous to reduce the conversion/translation load carried by the IP gateway 14, thereby relieving some of the burden thereon.